

NEWS RELEASE from

WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

**Member of Congress
Third District of Illinois**

Washington, D.C. (202) 225-5701
Chicago (312) 886-0481

For more information, contact
Ted Bush at (202) 225-5701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 27, 2003

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES BILL TO HONOR LOCAL POLICE OFFICER

[WASHINGTON, D.C.] Today, Congressman Bill Lipinski announced the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 825, a bill sponsored by Lipinski to rename the Moraine Valley Post Office after Michael J. Healy, a slain Postal Police Officer from Hometown, Illinois.

On June 21st 1981, Michael J. Healy was slain in a foiled armed robbery attempt outside Chicago's Main Post Office. Healy, a 26-year old Postal Police Officer with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, was the first uniformed officer ever to be killed in the line of duty. Since the Postal Inspection Service was established in 1772, only nine employees have died in the line of duty.

In 2001, the Fraternal Order of Police, National Labor Council #2 met in Chicago to commemorate the passing of their fallen comrade. After the meeting, the Fraternal Order of Police contacted Congressman Lipinski's office to explore a permanent memorial for Healy's ultimate sacrifice.

Lipinski stated: "Together, we felt that renaming a post office close to Healy's 'home town' would be an appropriate honor. In addition, after letters containing anthrax spores were sent to several Congressional Offices in October 2001, I thought this was a good opportunity for the entire Congress to formally recognize the important role of the Postal Inspection Service, and our letter carriers."

In 2002, Postal Police Officers and Inspectors responded to 17,000 suspicious mailings, anthrax hoaxes and threats --- a 100 fold increase from the previous year. Besides protecting America's post offices and 200,000 postal carriers, the service responds to more than 1,000 postal-related assaults and credible threats, as well as 75,000 complaints of consumer mail fraud each year. About 12,000 arrests are made annually.

There are approximately 1,900 Postal Police Officers and Inspectors in the United States. About 150 Postal Police Officers and Inspectors work in the Chicago area.

Lipinski continued: "Today, United States postal workers are on the front lines of the War on Terror. H.R. 825 is a small way to recognize the personal risks these federal workers accept, and to pay tribute to Michael Healy and his family in Hometown."

On March 26th, Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) introduced S. 708 in the Senate, with Senator Peter Fitzgerald (R-IL) as a co-sponsor. Should the Senate pass this companion legislation, the Moraine Valley Post Office in Bridgeview will be renamed the "Michael J. Healy Post Office Building."

###